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13 August 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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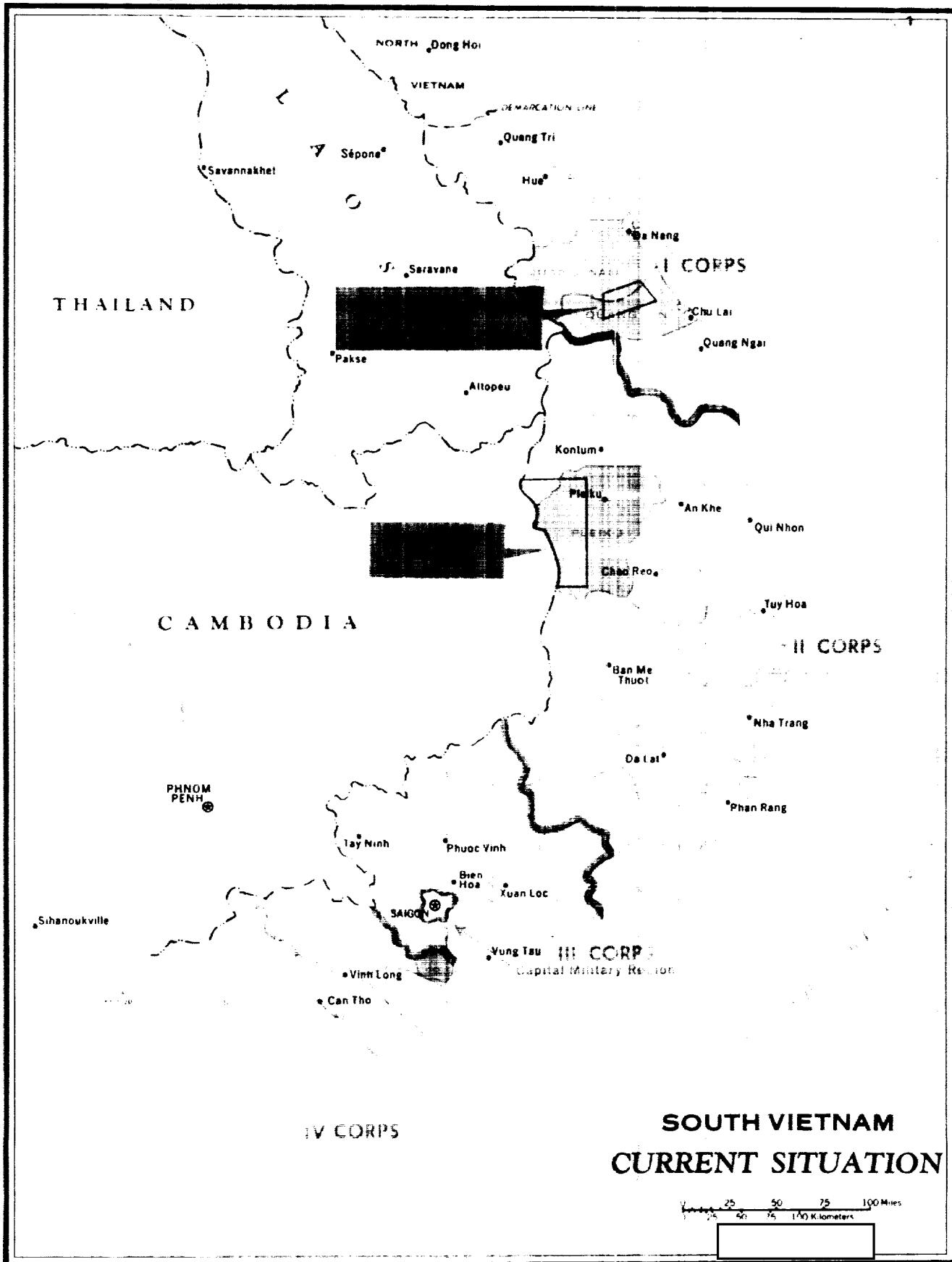
13 August 1966

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CONTENTS

1. Vietnam: Current situation report. (Page 1)
2. Colombia: Violence may mar Latin American presidential meeting. (Page 3)
3. Notes: USSR; North Korea; UK-Malaysia; Pakistan; Nigeria. (Page 4)

25X1



63383

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

13 August 1966

*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: Only light combat activity has been reported in the past 24 hours as allied operations continue to seek out large Communist concentrations.

In the coastal flatlands of Quang Nam and Quang Tin provinces, Operation COLORADO/LIEN KET 52 reported sporadic contacts yesterday, following earlier Communist mortar and recoilless rifle attacks on two US Marine command posts. Allied casualties in this nine-day old operation so far total 40 killed (23 US) and 211 wounded (137 US), as against Communist losses of 514 killed and 49 captured. (See Map)

Allied forces conducting Operation PAUL REVERE II continue to sweep areas of Pleiku Province, with only minor engagements currently reported. In 13 days, this operation has resulted in 532 enemy troops killed and 60 captured. Friendly casualties total 75 killed and 281 wounded. (See Map)

Two South Vietnamese Popular Force platoons, which would normally operate in a defensive role, yesterday conducted a raid in Go Cong Province, about 30 miles south of Saigon, and established contact with an estimated Viet Cong company. The government troops reported no losses; 17 Viet Cong were killed and 13 weapons captured. (See Map)

The US military command has received a number of recent reports that the Viet Cong have been augmenting their terrorist organization and plan a step-up in terrorist attacks, particularly against US residences and military billets in the Saigon area. Terrorism in

the capital has been at a relatively low level in recent months, possibly because of police apprehension of more than 100 Viet Cong agents in the Saigon area since 1 April.

Political Developments in South Vietnam: The government yesterday posted the official list of candidates for this September's constituent assembly election.

Government figures show a total of 542 active candidates running either as individuals or on group lists for the 108 elected seats in the 117-man assembly. Nine seats have been allocated to tribal groups. The ratio of approximately five candidates per seat represents a considerable decline, through withdrawals and disqualifications, from the six-to-one ratio of the initial filing in July. By nearly all accounts, however, the screening of candidates by the central election committee was basically honest and fair.

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[redacted] Buddhist circles are beginning to implement tactics in the provinces designed to encourage an election boycott and other antigovernment activity.]

A monk identified with Buddhist moderates recently told an Embassy officer that a boycott could be avoided, and relations improved, only if the government would quickly release "innocent" persons detained during the recent "struggle movement," and apologize for troop "excesses" against Buddhist shrines. There are no indications, however, that the militants who now dominate the Buddhist Institute are disposed to any such compromise with the present government.

25X1

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Colombia: [Violence may mar the forthcoming Latin American presidential meeting in Bogota.]

[The National Federation of University Students is attempting to organize a nationwide strike to coincide with the "little summit meeting" from 14 to 18 August,

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[The purpose of the strike is to demonstrate to the visiting presidents of Chile and Venezuela and presidential representatives from Peru and Ecuador that the Colombian students oppose the new government of President Carlos Lleras Restrepo, the host of the meeting. It will also be a test of Lleras' will. He is expected to take a tough position on student discipline, but he may be inhibited by the presence of the high-ranking visitors.]

[If the students are able to organize a strike at this time, it may be backed up by violence which the Communist Party of Colombia (PCC) hopes to carry out during the meeting of presidents. The student organization is influenced by the PCC but is not under its control.]

25X1

25X1

13 Aug 66

3

25X1

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NOTES

25X1

USSR: [As part of a continuing campaign to arouse international opposition to the US position on Vietnam, Soviet diplomats have approached several French embassies to propose on-the-spot "collaboration" on Vietnam. These overtures carry a step further Moscow's recent behind-the-scenes diplomatic moves aimed at persuading non-Communist third parties--including Britain, Cyprus, Denmark, India, Sweden, and UN Secretary General Thant--either to caution or condemn the US for its Vietnam policy.]

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North Korea: Pyongyang's explicit statement of its independence within the world Communist movement is the culmination of a long series of moves away from a pro-Chinese policy. An authoritative article in the leading party newspaper on 11 August, although not mentioning Peking by name, clearly rejects recent Chinese claims for leadership of the movement. The article sides with Moscow's call for a united front among Communist states against US actions in Vietnam, but indirectly chides Moscow by criticizing "revisionism."

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UK-Malaysia: [Now that the official agreement has been signed ending confrontation between Malaysia and Indonesia, British officials plan immediately to withdraw British troops from border operations in Malaysian Borneo and would like to complete a phased withdrawal from Borneo in six to nine months. London is eager to cut down its expenses in the Far East, but is concerned that Indonesia will continue covert subversion efforts in Borneo. The Wilson government wants British units to stay on until gradually replaced by Malaysian troops.]

25X1

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13 Aug 66

4

25X1

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25X1

Pakistan: East Pakistan Government officials fear that violence may break out early next week. On 14 August, the government's Pakistan Muslim League plans a "National Integration Day" which is bound to offend East Pakistani separatists, and on 16 August the opposition East Pakistan Awami League (EPAL) plans to open the "second phase" of its autonomy campaign with a boycott of West Pakistani goods. These activities could spark rioting, particularly if leftist groups combine forces with the EPAL.

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Nigeria: The first round of talks on future regional relationships evidently ended inconclusively, indicating that the negotiations are likely to be involved and protracted. Eastern representatives reportedly tried in private conversations to persuade the Mid-western delegates to join them in favoring a secessionist position. A reorganization of the army on a regional basis now is under way, beginning with the departure yesterday for the North of northern troops whose presence in the East has been a source of tension.

25X1

25X1

13 Aug 66

5

25X1

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